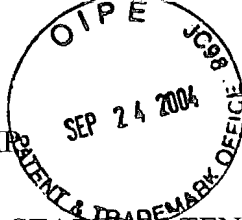


DOCKET NO: 217395US25CIP



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

ERNESTO E. BLANCO

: EXAMINER: TO BE ASSIGNED

SERIAL NO: 10/092,560 :

FILED: MARCH 8, 2002

: GROUP ART UNIT: 3763

FOR: SAFETY TROCAR WITH  
PROGRESSIVE CUTTING TIP GUARDS  
AND GAS JET TISSUE DEFLECTOR :

RECEIVED

SEP 29 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application,  
without prejudice, as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on  
page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 52 of this paper.

09/27/2004 HLE333 00000033 150030 10092560

01 FC:2201 344.00 DA  
02 FC:2202 198.00 DA